

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 015998

R 021016Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8852

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: DEVELOPMENTS IN FLOGGING CASES

REF: PRETORIA 3884

1. GOVERNMENT OPPONENTS WHO WERE PUBLICLY FLOGGED IN OWAMBO LAST WEEK WERE GIVEN PERMISSION NOVEMBER 1 TO TRAVEL TO WINDHOEK IN ORDER TO CONSULT THEIR LEGAL ADVISERS. THEY ARE JOHANNES NANGUTUUALA, LEADER OF DEMOCRATIC COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PARTY, AND ANDREAS NUUKWAWO, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO).

2. OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER PHILEMON ELIFAS HAD EARLIER REFUSED THEM PERMISSION TO GO TO WINDHOEK, SAYING HE WOULD NOT GIVE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO HIS ENEMIES. DESPITE ELIFAS' OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, MAGISTRATE T.J.B. VAN NIEKERK ISSUED NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

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AFTER STRONG PROTEST FROM NANGUTUUALA'S AND NUUKWAWO'S LAWYERS.

3. MEANWHILE, TWO MORE SWAPO MEMBERS, MATTHEUS JOSEPH AND KESHII NATHANIEL, HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO OWAMBO TRIBAL AUTHORITIES. THEY HAD BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE -- IN JOSEPH'S CASE SINCE MIDDLE AUGUST -- AND WERE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY FROM ONDANGUA POLICE CELLS TO CUSTODY OF TRIBAL COURT NOVEMBER 1. JOSEPH APPEARED IN COURT SAME DAY ON UNKNOWN CHARGES RELATING TO HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. OWAMBO MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, HEADMAN JACKIE ASHIPALA, PRESIDED. JOSEPH WAS FINED R50 AND SENTENCED TO 20 LASHES WITH PALM RIB OR, ALTERNATIVELY, FURTHER R10 FINE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER HE WAS ABLE TO RAISE CASH TO ESCAPE FLOGGING. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT ON NATHANIEL'S FATE.

4. PRESS REPORTS OF FLOGGING ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DISQUIET IN SOUTH AFRICA, BOTH IN OPPOSITION AND GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING CIRCLES. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, HAS PREDICTED THAT SAG'S SILENT ACQUIESCENCE IN FLOGGINGS WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION. AFRIKAANS DAILY DIE VADERLAND WARNED THAT FLOGGINGS ARE DAMAGING POLICE'S GOOD NAME AND SAID THIS WAS NOT KIND OF THING SAG CAN PERMIT. STUNG BY SUCH CRITICISM, DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE, J.T. KRUGER, HAS PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE. OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. RE STATE 215515, AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH FONSEC FOURIE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6.
HURD

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